**BITs & Pieces Newsletter****Volume 2, Issue 1****September 2008****In This Issue**

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**About this Newsletter**

This periodic newsletter provides updates and information relevant to Business and Information Technology educators. It is published by Business & Information Technology, Career & Technical Education Team, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

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Career Clusters/Pathways Update

The States' Career Cluster Initiative rolled out updates to the Career Cluster Model in June. Many of these changes effect B&IT teachers and the pathways they work with.

There are now 79 pathways (not 81). All changes are reflected in the Business Management & Administration (note new cluster title), Finance, Information Technology, and Marketing (note new cluster title) pathways. An overview of these changes can be found [on the WI BIT webpage](#).

Currently, the careerclusters.org website is not up-to-date with these changes. However, the new skill statements, essential skills (new level for 2008), and sample pathways can be found at the same link above.

B&IT State Skills Standards Update

To more closely align the B&IT State Skills Standards Portfolio to those of other areas, a comprehensive Final Evaluation/Portfolio is now available. A condensed version is also available.

To reflect these changes and others, the Guide to Work-Based Learning Skills Standards in Business & Information Technology has also been updated!

[Click here for access to these updated documents!](#)

If your department currently runs a coop program that does not offer the State Skills Standard Certificate, now might be the time to make the "upgrade." Contact me for more information on just how easy it is!

Now is the time to start preparing for the 2008/2009 Skills Standards year. Passwords will be sent to District Administrators by Mid-September put them on watch and ask them to pass them on. The on-line site will be ready for all new registrations by Mid-September. In the meantime....Get your student placements done, get their training plans developed and prepare your registration list including worksites.

New to B&IT Education?

If you have three or fewer years of teaching experience in Business & Information Technology, then here is an opportunity for you!

Take the time to gain insight and knowledge into your chosen career! Network with peers and veteran B&IT teachers to discuss curriculum and standards implementation, new state initiatives, and ways to build your B&IT programs.

The Department of Public Instruction will be hosting this workshop. This workshop will be held adjacent to the Wisconsin Business Education Association Fall Convention in Appleton (held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel). No registration fee required. Each attendee will receive lots of materials and meals for the day; along with hotel cost for Wednesday evening (double room occupancy) to attend the WBEA Conference beginning the following day. Dress is business casual.

[Tentative Agenda and Registration form can be found here.](#)

Focus On: "The Biz"



The Business Journal will continue publishing a high school edition of their paper entitled "The Biz". The Biz will cover local business and

news and will contain articles that appeared in previous issues of The Business Journal, rewritten for a high school audience. Since articles span many topics, The Biz is appropriate for units in business, marketing, economics, and even technology classes.

The publication will come out three times during the school year. The first will be published in October. There are no costs to you, due to the support of Junior Achievement.

Send an email to jroanhouse@bizjournals.com to subscribe.

WBEA Convention is almost here!

Make time and arrangements to attend this year's premier professional development opportunity for Wisconsin's Business Educators!

The 65th Annual Convention will be held in Appleton at the Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center from September 25-28.

Many terrific sectionals, roundtables, tours, and workshops are scheduled! Don't miss out!

[Click here for registration information!](#)

Pumping Up PFM & Econ

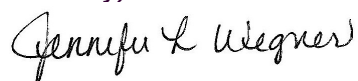
A one-day conference on personal financial and economics education for Wisconsin's K-12 teachers, in conjunction with Wisconsin's Money Smart Week--This one-day conference will offer three concurrent sessions on teaching personal finance and economics in K-12 classrooms. Among those presenting are college professors with expertise in personal financial and economics education, fellow K-12 teachers with years of experience teaching these disciplines, representatives from the DPI, as well as financial industry veterans.

Fifteen presentations will be offered (covering all grade levels).

This conference is slated to be held in the Lambeau Field Atrium on October 16. [Click here for more information!](#)

Have information to share? Please forward it to me for inclusion in the next newsletter!

Sincerely,



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